	Districts		Districts
15.	Lalitpur	15.	Budaun
16.	Mahoba	16.	Etah
17.	Mirzapur	17.	Farrukhabad
18.	Pratapgarh		
19.	Rai Bareli		
20.	Sitapur		
21.	Sonbhadra		
22.	Unnao		

Roads constructed in Bihar under PMGSY

†1773. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be plesed to state:

(a) the kilometre of roads constructed in Bihar between 2001-04 under PMGSY; and

(b) the details of the same for the years 2004-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 457.14 km. length of roads was completed during the period 2001-04 in Bihar.

(b) from April, 2004 to March, 2007, 2223.27 km. length of roads has been completed under the programmme.

Remedy to problems faced by textile industry

1774. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister had promised to find a remedy for the ailing textile industry, calling upon the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry, Textiles and National Manufacturing Competition Council (NMCC) to sit together with the leaders of the textile industry to find solutions to the various problems faced by the textile sector;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether Government has created investment regions for the textile sector, and launched a scheme to train one million people in five years on specific textile related trades and conduct a programme to revitalize handloom cooperatives on the pattern of agricultural cooperatives; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The High Level Committee on Manufacturing (HLCM) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, while considering the Action Plan of the Ministry of Textiles for the growth of textile Industry, *inter alia,* decided that the Ministry of Finance, in consultation with the Ministry of Textiles and the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), would expeditiously consider the fiscal proposals required for the textiles sector. Consequently, the Government announced a set measured in July,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2007 to provide relief to exporters by way of accelerated reimbursement of dues to exporters, reduction in the interest rate on pre-shipment and post-shipment credit and revision in drawback rates and Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates. In addition, the Government has also notified exemption of certain service tax in respect of exporters.

A meeting was recently taken by the NMCC with the officials of Ministry of Finance, Ministry of commerce & Industry and Ministry of Textiles, where representatives from Textiles industry associations were also present, on issues relating to restoring competitiveness in the Textiles & Garment Sector. Finance Minister also took a meeting with the Textile industry along with the officials of the Ministry of Textiles, the NMCC and the Ministry of Finance. The Government has announced a relief package in November, 2007, which reduces basic Customs Duty on certain items relating to textiles sector. Refund of service tax paid by exporters on taxable services linked to exports has been further extended. A support package for providing relief to export sectors, like Textiles, which have low import intensity, was also announced through additional subvention of 2% in pre-shipment and post-shipment credit to the textiles including Ready-Made Garments and carpet but excluding man-made fibre.

(c) and (d) Some new initiatives taken by the Government for the growth of textile sector, *inter alia,* include creation of Investment Regions to consolidate the phenomenon of agglomeration, visible in textiles to further reduce transaction costs and enhance competitiveness; launching of Manpower-Development scheme-known as the "Neighbourhood Apparel & Textile Training Institutes for job Assurance (NATIJA)"- for establishing a network of employment-linked training facilities to meet the projected demand of 4 million trained workers over the next 5 years; and to revitalize handloom cooperatives on the pattern of agricultural cooperatives. Necessary action in this regard has since been intiated in consultation with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, etc.

Gap between MSP and production cost of cotton in Maharashtra

1775. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that higher production cost of cotton, minimum support price of cotton (MSP) and import of cotton has exaggerated the situation of the farmers in Maharashtra State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is big gap between minimum support price and production cost of the cotton;

(c) if so, whether Government has any proposal to increase MSP and also increase of import duty on cotton;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) No Sir. The MSP is fixed by the Government of India every year on the recommendation of Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) which takes into account the cost of cultivation per hectare, cost of production per quintal in various regions of the country, changes in input prices like seeds, pesticides, fertilizers etc., demand and supply situation,